# THE CASE

OF

# RICHARD W. MEADE, ESQ.

A CITIZEN

*OF PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.*

SEIZED AND IMPRISONED, 2d OF MAY, 1816,

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN,

AND

STILL DETAINED.

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CADIZ, NOVEMBER 27th, 1817.

# TO THE PRESIDENT

AND

# Congress of the United States,

*The Memorial and Representation of* RICHARD W. MEADE, *a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania, in the United States.*

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT your memorialist is a citizen of the United States of America, born in Chester county, state of Pennsylvania, in the month of June, 1778: that though he has resided many years in Europe, and the West Indies, he married in America, in 1801, and is the father of eight living children, has part of his property in the United States, and has constantly paid his taxes there. That he has never directly or indirectly renounced his citizenship to his native country, nor ever accepted from any foreign power any right or privilege which could for one moment make his citizenship doubtful. That in the year 1803, owing to his having lost a large sum of money in a mercantile enterprize to the River La Plate, which he had been induced to enter into, together with several respectable merchants of Philadelphia, the property having been detained in Buenos Ayres, your memorialist embarked for Spain, in hopes of obtaining the restitution of said property, and at the same time was entrusted with claims from other citizens of the United States, for property unjustly detained from

them, amounting to near one million of dollars. That on his arrival in Spain he proceeded to Madrid, where he remained till the Spanish Government refused to confirm the convention which had been entered into in 1802, for the restitution of property by the two governments, and for indemnification to the sufferers; which convention had been duly ratified by the President and Senate of the United States. Finding it impracticable to procure a license from the Spanish Government to proceed to Buenos Ayres, your memorialist was compelled to employ a house in Cadiz to manage his business at Buenos Ayres, and he remained in this city, and after some time determined by the advice of his friends, on fixing a commercial establishment here, which he accordingly did: having resided ever since in this city, without having been absent from it for any length of time, always in the character of a citizen of the United Sates. In the year 1806, he was honoured with a regular commission from the Honourable Robert Smith, the Secretary of the Navy, as Navy-agent for the United States of America, for the port of Cadiz, which office he held till the present year.

That in the late war between the people of Spain, and Napoleon the Emperor of France, your memorialist did aid as far as lay in his power the efforts of the Spanish people, without any regard to the different forms of Government assumed, or adopted by them during that period, and at the same time without compromising his character as a neutral. That he had it in his power to render the most important services to the nation, having in various instances received from the then Government public thanks for those services,

and which at that period were so important, that the very first and principal advocate of the Spanish cause, always considered them as intimately connected with the existence of the cause itself. That your memorialist has in several instances been under an actual advance of above one million of dollars, during periods when the warmest advocates of the Spanish cause despaired of its success. That in the year 1812, being then under an actual cash advance of near eight hundred thousand dollars, and having convincing proofs that the then Treasurer General, Don Victor Soret was making use of the funds, which according to contract had been expressly appropriated for payment of your memorialist, he appealed to the Regency of the Country, of which the Duke of Infantado was at that time President, complaining of the injustice of the Treasurer's conduct towards him: that receiving no satisfaction from the Regency, he published in warm and manly language a Pamphlet, containing an account of his contracts with the government, and the injustice of the then existing Government towards him. That in consequence of said publication, he was seized at midnight by an armed force, and imprisoned in the common jail of the city, where he was kept three months, at the expiration of which time, he was let out on bail. That the Regency, in ordering his imprisonment violated every law of the country as they then existed under the Constitution, which had been adopted in the month of March of the same year, and solemnly sworn to by all the constituted authorities. That on an appeal to the Legislative body, then sitting in this city, under the title of *the Cortes*, your memorialist

did obtain a satisfactory order for the payment of his claims, but which order has only been in part complied with to this date, and that under the most enormous sacrifices, which in many instances amount to one-third of the capital; besides several years interest, for which no compensation has been made. That your memorialist also appealed to the Cortes, against the unjust and illegal proceedings of the Regency in imprisoning him; and a committee of that Body was appointed to examine into the merits of your memorialist's complaint, which committee made a report, a copy of which your memorialist presents under the No. 1, wherein they declare the proceedings of the Regency, the Minister who gave, and the Judge who executed the order, as illegal and unjust, and as such, that the aforesaid persons had incurred the several penalties prescribed in the Constitution for a violation of the authority confided to them.

The dismissal of the Regency by the Cortes, and the subsequent dissolution of the Cortes themselves, on the arrival of King Ferdinand VII. in Spain, prevented the report of the Committee of that body, from being acted on, and the affair being again referred to, and taken up by the Supreme Council of war, composed of a set of men wholly subservient to the Old Regency, who are all now employed in high offices, round the council. The Council of war lately decreed, that your memorialist should pay a fine of two thousand ducats for having published the book, which they were pleased to stamp with the character of a Libel against the late Regents of the Country.

Your memorialist particularly begs leave to draw the attention of Congress to the wide difference that

exists between the report of the special committee of the Cortes, and the sentence of the council of war under Ferdinand VII. The committee of the Cortes recommend, in the name of the nation, the punishment of the Regency, the Minister who gave, and the Judge who executed the order of imprisonment, as having violated various articles which it enumerates of the Constitution; and the Council on the contrary declare the publication a Libel, and sentenced your memorialist to be fined two thousand ducats. Here the difference in the administration of the Law is very conspicious.

Your memorialist appealed from the sentence of the Supreme Council of war, demanding another hearing, and the affair is yet pending in said Council, that your memorialist has not the least doubt, but that they will confirm the sentence against him.

Your memorialist has thought proper to premise thus much, relative to his residence in Cadiz, and the causes of his imprisonment in 1812, in order that the same might be fully understood, and might not be blended with the present case, as they have in general been confounded in the relations printed throughout the United States, and repeated in various publications in Europe. However much a number of the persons at present in power, may have rejoiced and assisted in causing the present imprisonment of your memorialist, they have not dared to alledge the former conduct of your memorialist as one of the causes of his *present* imprisonment, though no doubt can exist, but that it has influenced in part the spirit of persecution which has prevailed ever since, against your memorialist; and this is most easily ac-

complished in a country where no opportunity is afforded to a foreigner to defend himself, and the punishment most generally proceeds from private information, without any examination or notice to furnish evidence to the accused, or any confronting of witnesses, but summarily by an order through one of the secretary's of state, as in the present case.

Your memorialist will endeavor to state in as concise terms as possible, the cause of his present imprisonment.

In the year 1811, he was appointed by the *Consulado*, or Chamber of Commerce of Cadiz, at a public meeting of the creditors of the house of James W. Glass of this city, declared bankrupt in England, in consequence of his connection with a house under the title of Hunter, Rainey & Co. of London, as sole assignee to the estate. This appointment was made expressly (which your memorialist begs you will *particularly* mark) by the Chamber or Tribunal of Commerce, with the approbation of all the creditors of Cadiz, and confirmed by the assignees in London. The *Consulado*, or Chamber of Commerce, is the regular Tribunal which takes cognizance of all commercial affairs in Spain, and to whom every description of persons, including foreigners carrying on trade, are amenable. The tribunal of Commerce required and received from your memorialist, bonds to take charge of the effects of the estate, and to be responsible *solely to said tribunal for the proceeds thereof*, prohibiting him, under the penalty of the bonds, from disposing of the funds without their sanction.

Your memorialist having settled the affairs of the estate as far as circumstances would permit, and paid

all the demands on the same in Spain, there remained in his possession a balance of about *fifty-two thousand* dollars, which he earnestly and urgently solicited the Tribunal of Commerce, to whose discretion he was bound by bonds, to permit him to remit to the assignees in London. In the proceedings on the case there are several petitions of his to this effect: the delays consequent on all Spanish proceedings, prevented the same being done, when Mr. Duncan Hunter, one of the principals of the Bankrupt estate, was sent out to Cadiz: and on the eve of getting the business settled, Mr. Glass, escaping from his bail in England, presented himself also in Cadiz, and laid an injunction on the funds, under the plea of his having been unjustly drawn into a snare, and induced to visit England, where he had been illegally included in the bankruptcy of the English house.

In this state of suspense, Mr. Hunter proposed speculations with the funds, which your memorialist refused to enter into; and he thereupon applied to the *Consulado* to have the money removed from the possession of your memorialist, which your memorialist immediately acceded to, presented and acknowledged his right as agent of the assignees of London, and solicited that the bonds of your memorialist might be cancelled, and that he might be permitted to pay the money over to said Hunter.

After some delay, Mr. Hunter appointed a person, by the name of John Macdermot, his agent to act for him, and the *Consulado* decreed, that "Mr. Hunter or his substitute, should give the necessary bonds to take possession of the effects, in order that those given by your memorialist should be cancelled, and that

Hunter or his substitute should then be put in possession of the estate and effects."

Macdermot offered a variety of persons as security, who were all refused by the Tribunal, as not being considered of sufficient solidity; and finally Mr. Hunter and Mr. Macdermot, not being able to procure any person of respectability and solidity to enter into the necessary bonds, and after a variety of steps by them pursued; the Tribunal of Commerce, of its own accord, and without being required so to do by any of the parties, issued a decree, which was notified in writing, commanding your memorialist to deposit the money, held by him under responsibility to this body, in the King's Treasury, till Mr. Hunter or his agent Macdermot, should procure the necessary security. In this order, the Consulado fixed the hour on the following morning, on which your memorialist was commanded, under the penalty of all his property being sequestrated, to make the deposit in the Treasury. On the ensuing morning, in pursuance of said order, your memorialist did make the deposit, and presented the receipt in due form to the Tribunal, *wherein the Treasurer acknowleged to have received the sum in question by order of the Chamber of Commerce*, which sum, he the Treasurer would hold subject to their future disposition.

A few days after the deposit was made, a question arose, whether the sum had been made in specie or in Treasury notes, and at the instigation of Macdermot, who now pretended that he had found a security, the question was asked in an official letter from the Tribunal to the Intendant, and the latter answered, "that the deposit had been made in due form under his inspection in effective Specie, and that whenever the

Tribunal should order its *devolution*, his Majesty wouldpay it in the sa m e coin.

Notwithstanding this, a suit was commenced, and carried on against your memorialist; and the *Consulado*, aware that they had committed themselves, by ordering a deposit, which they ought not to have done, they decided that your memorialist should pay the sum a second time; from this decree an appeal was entered to the Superior Tribunal, called *Alzadas*, which your memorialist was entitled to, by the 7th and 20th article of the treaty between Spain and America. While the cause was pending in this Tribunal, Macdermot, through the English Minister, procured an order for the cause to be removed to the Council of War at Madrid, and this Tribunal confirmed the sentence of the *Consulado*. Agreeably to the laws of this tribunal, and of the country, your memorialist had a right to an appeal, but it was refused; your memorialist applied to the King, and he commanded that your memorialist should be heard by the same tribunal; but considering that the Judges had shown a decided partiality in the case, his Majesty, at the solicitation of your memorialist, nominated five Judges additional to be associated with the other five, and further commanded, that no incident relative to the cause should be examined, heard, or decided on, except with the assistance, and in the presence of the new Judges who were selected from the Counsellors.

In this state of the case, Macdermot presented a memorial, through Don Pedro Cevallos, then Minister of State, alleging that your memorialist was about to leave this country, and requesting that an order might be issued, to compel him to pay the money a

second time, or that your memorialist should be put into Jail till the cause should be decided. This memorial being backed by the influence of the British Minister, Mr. Cevallos privately consulted the Council of War, and the five primitive Judges, unmindful of the order of the King, as of their own honor, they privately advised an order being issued for the arrest of your memorialist *for the payment of the sum a second time ;* and on the 2nd of May, 1816, your memorialist was seized in his own house, and brought to this castle, and confined in a dungeon, with a centinel at his door, and for several months locked up at night, merely because your memorialist would not consent to pay a second time a sum of money, which he has already paid, in virtue of a decree of a competent tribunal, and which money his Majesty, under his own signature, on the 10th of August, 1815, acknowledges to have in his possession ; and when his Majesty ordered the cause to be heard in appeal, he commanded that all proceedings should be suspended, till the money could be collected to return the deposit which he confesses to hold.

Your memorialist does not conceive it necessary for him to make many observations on this extraordinary case, to convince the Executive and Congress of the United States, of the cruelty and injustice of such proceedings. The case is certainly one of the most singular that has ever occurred, that a citizen of the United States should be seized and imprisoned, and now kept in close confinement above eighteen months, without any prospect of relief, because his catholic Majesty cannot, or his officers will not, return a sacred deposit, which one of his own tribunals commanded

that citizen to make, and which he had no means of resisting. The correspondence which has taken place between George W. Erving, Esq. the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of Madrid, and Don Pedro Cavallos, the Spanish Minister of State, and his successor Don Jose Pizarro, and which correspondence has been transmitted by Mr. Erving to the Secretary of State, at Washington, will corroborate all the facts relative to the deposit, and the actual state of the business, as also the little or no attention which the Spanish Ministers have thought proper to pay to the subject. In fact, the whole of the case shows the true picture of the state of Spain, where neither the persons nor property of the citizens of the United States are secure. Numerous similar outrages on society, and particularly on citizens of the United States, have occurred in the Spanish Colonies, but have always been denied, or admitted as unsanctioned and illegal acts of subaltern agents, but it was reserved for the present age to witness a case so outrageously unjust, committed at the court of Spain itself, and to have met the sanction of the King, as Mr. Cevallos, his Secretary of State, expressly *states* in his answer to Mr. Erving's first note. All of which your memorialist respectfully submits to the attention of the constitutional authorrities of his native country, and prays for relief, in such manner as may be best adapted to the nature of the case, and as may be thought most consistent with the rights of an independent nation, and the dignity of its representatives.

R. W. MEADE.

Cadiz, Nov. 27, 1817.

(Copy.)

*To his Excellency Don José Pizarro, First Secretary of State, &c. &c.*

MADRID, MARCH 14, 1817.

SIR,

IN a note of September 16, 1816, to your Excellency's predecesssor, I required that the Treasurer general of the district of Cadiz, should be ordered to pay to such person as the Consulado of Cadiz should appoint to receive the same, a certain sum of money which had been deposited with said Treasurer by R. W. Meade, an American citizen, in obedience to an order of said Consulado; and for which sum said Meade then was, as he still is, held in prison.

Having been answered by Mr. Cevallos generally, that the affair of Mr. Meade was before the Council of War, I insisted on my former demand, (in a further note of October 21st,) showing to the Minister, that it had no necessary connection with any process depending before the Council of War:—and further, that it was not possible for the Council to satisfy my reclamation, even if it should be disposed to do so, because it had no faculty to give such orders to his Majesty's Treasury, as I had required,

In answer to this note, his Excellency was pleased to inform me, on the 7th November, that as my demand related to the duties of the Minister of Hacienda, his Majesty had resolved, that my note of 21st October should be passed to that Minister, to the end, *that through taht department the Royal resolution should be given.* In consequence (I presume) of this measure, the treasurer general Senor

Navarrete, wrote to the Consulado of Cadiz, on the 19th November, requiring that tribunal to inform him particularly, as to the aforesaid deposit; the Consulado replied to the treasurer, on the 29th November, that the deposit *had been made by its order*, that it had been made in effective money of silver (*"en libramientos de plata effectiva,"*) that it still existed at the treasury, and that the treasurer had made himself responsible to the said Consulado for the amount.

I annex to this note, a copy of that most important correspondence, between the treasurer and the Consulado, (marked A.) and which your Excellency was pleased also to procure a copy of, from the Minister of Hacienda, pursuant to the request contained in my note of December 25th.

This correspondence leaves not the least doubt as to the nature of the deposit, or its actual existence, and I assured myself that it was all that could be desired, and that it must necessarily produce an immediate order for the release of Mr. Meade from prison. I am therefore much surprised to find, that instead of the affair having been "despatched," as I understood by your Excellency's note of November 7th, that it would be, it has again fallen back into the hands of the Council of War, which tribunal, as before observed, cannot have any control over the operations of his Majesty's treasury.

If the Council of War should enter into any inquiry as to the nature of the deposit, can the result of that inquiry, whatever it may be, be opposed to the complete plain, unequivocal declaration of the Consulado of Cadiz? the very tribunal by order of

which it, the deposit, was made; which is most interested to ascertain its nature, and its actual existence. But in no view can it be of the least importance in considering, or should it have the least influence in deciding on my reclamation, whether the deposit in question is or is not satisfactory to the Council of War, and therefore I will not here enter into its past or present proceedings, nor will I even advise Mr. Meade to appear before that tribunal, to prove any thing which may relate to the nature of said deposit; it is sufficient that the deposit was made by order of the Consulado, that it was paid into his Majesty's treasury, and is now there; all this is proved by the confession of the Consulado itself, and I cannot acknowlege the justice of the plea, for holding Mr. Meade in prison, by a decision of another of his Majesty's tribunals for the very sum deposited.

His Majesty's treasury has the money in question, Mr. Meade is suffering in prison, under his Majesty's authority, what can be more simple than the course pointed out by justice in this case?

As the representative of the American government, the natural protector of its citizens against all injustice, I appeal directly to his Catholic Majesty against the injustice of those acting in his name, and under his authority, and I request your Excellency as the proper channel of communication to lay my reclamation before him.

And if his Majesty should desire to be more particularly informed of the proceedings of the Council of War, and of all the unjust persecutions that this American citizen (who, I cannot but remind your Excellency, so much contributed to support the cause

of Spain in the most critical epoch of her affairs) has suffered, then if his Majesty will condescend to peruse the last memorial which Mr. Meade addressed to him, he will, I doubt not, see enough to reprehend.

I offer to your Excellency renewed assurance of my very distinguished consideration.

(Signed) GEORGE W. ERVING.

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*To his Excellency Don José Pizarro, First Secretary of State, &c. &c.*

MADRID, 24th of MARCH, 1817.

SIR,

With my note of the 14th inst. upon the case of R. W. Meade, an American citizen, confined in the Castle of St. Catalina, at Cadiz, I transmitted to your Excellency what ought to be considered as the most satisfactory and conclusive evidence, relative to the nature, and the actual existence of the deposit made by him in the Royal Treasury of that district, by order of the Consulado of Cadiz—it appears to me, that nothing further could be required, and that if your Excellency would lay it before his Majesty pursuant to my request, that it must produce an instant order for the release of Mr. Meade: but seeing that the sufferings of this individual yet continue, I cannot omit any measure, however superfluous it may appear, which may contribute to his release, heaping proof upon proof of the injustice done him. It is therefore that I now send to your Excellency (herewith enclosed) a certificate, dated 15th March,

(regularly authenticated,) of Don Antonio Yzarbe, *Principal Administrator of the Provincial Rents*, of the district of Cadiz, who is the only person authorized to grant certificates, relative to the operations of the treasury in that district, and through whose hands all such matters must necessarily pass: this certificate has been granted on the petition of Mr. Meade, which I also take the liberty of enclosing. I beg your Excellency's particular attention to the certificate, it is ample and explicit in every respect, and I am persuaded must convince you, that no further research on the point in question can be necessary. I therefore confidently re-urge my request, that your Excellency would be pleased to lay my reclamation before the King, and I rely on his Majesty's just dispositions for the immediate release of Mr. Meade. I renew to your Excellency assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

(Signed) GEORGE W. ERVING.

## A.

Correspondence referred to by Mr. Erving, in his Letter of the 14th of March.

*Copy of an Official Letter addressed by Don Julian Fernandez Navarrete, Treasurer General of Spain for the year* 1816, *to the Prior and Consuls of the Royal Tribunal of Commerce of Cadiz, and their answer.*

In order to answer with due or correct knowledge, a certain information or request which has been demanded of me by my superiors, with the least possible delay, you will be pleased to inform me as early as possible, whether by order of your tribunal, R. Meade made a deposit in the treasury of royal finances, or in that of the revenue? if it exists at present, and whether there is any impediment to returning the same to him? God preserve you many years.

Madrid, 19th November, 1816.

(Signed) Julian Fernandez Navarrete.

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*The Answer of the Consulado of Cadiz, to the Letter of the Treasurer General of Spain.*

Under date of the 19th inst. you were pleased to say to this Royal Tribunal, that in order to answer certain information, which had been demanded by your superiors, that this Tribunal should state, whether it was true, that by its order R. Meade had made any deposit in the Royal Treasury of Finance, or that of the Revenue? of what amount it consisted? if it existed at present, and if there was any impediment to its being returned to him?

In reply to these questions, the Consulado begs leave to state, that at the suit of John Macdermot, who claimed from R. Meade, for balance of accounts, the sum of Reals of Vellon 1,050,327.16 Marvedies: in the course of the proceedings, this Tribunal gave its sentence, commanding R. Meade to deposit the aforesaid sum in the Royal Treasury of the Revenue, and this was done in Treasury notes of *effective cash*,

which said Meade had to receive from said department, and the deposit was thus made.

The Treasurer obliging himself to hold the amount at the disposition of this Tribunal. The sum deposited still subsists, and though Macdermot afterwards pretended that R. Meade should deliver him said sum, without any regard to the deposit, it did not take place, on account of R. Meade having appealed. The said Meade applied to his Majesty, and through the Minister of Finance, there was issued a Royal order dated 10th of August, 1815, in which it was commanded, that in the mean time until funds could be collected wherewith to return the aforesaid deposit, this Tribunal should suspend its proceedings. This Tribunal consulted the Supreme Council of War on this point, and in virtue of a dispatch, of which the adjoined is a literal copy, they transmitted the *Autos* or *proceedings* to the supreme council, as commanded by said Royal order. The supreme council makes merit of the same in the aforesaid document, and it is the strongest proof that the deposit exists at the disposition of this Tribunal. From the circumstance of the *Autos* or suit, being still pending in the appeal before the supreme council, this Tribunal cannot resolve to whom the sum so deposited is to be returned, and whilst the suit is dependant on the appeal, this tribunal cannot regulate its sentence or proceedings.

Cadiz, 29th November.

(Signed) MIGUEL DE MARRON,
NICOLAS BLANCO.

*Copy of an Official Letter addressed by Don Victor Soret, Treasurer General of Spain, for the year 1817, to the Treasurer of the Revenue or Provincial Rents of Cadiz.*

By return of post, without fail, you will please state, if the deposit exists as yet, which R. Meade made on the 19th February, 1814, of R. Vn. 1,050,327, and 20 marvedies, in virtue of a sentence of the Tribunal of the Consulado of the day prior thereto.—God preserve you many years.

Madrid, 22d of April, 1817.

(Signed) VICTOR SORET.

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*The Answer of the Treasurer.*

In the moment that I received your official letter of the 22d of the present month, relative to the deposit, of R. Meade, I sent a copy of said letter to the Administrator-general of the Revenue of the Province, on the 28th of same month, in consequence of all the archives corresponding to the year in which the said deposit was made, existing in his department and under his control—and under this date he answered me as follows:

"General Administration of the Rents of the Province."—"By the archives of Judicial Deposits, corresponding to the year 1814, which exist in this administration, it appears unquestionably that R. Meade deposited on the 19th February of said year, in virtue of a sentence of the Royal Tribunal of the Consulado of the day before, the sum of Reals of Vellon 1,050,327, and 20 Marvedies, and that no

sum has ever been returned to the present day on account of said deposit, which I beg leave to state in answer to your official letter of yesterday, in which you transmit me copy of the letter received by you, from the Treasurer-general of the 22d of this month. God preserve you many years. Cadiz, 29 April, 1817.

(Signed) ANTONIO YZARBE."

And which I therefore beg leave to transcribe for you as an answer to your official letter. God preserve you many years. Cadiz, 29 April, 1817.

(Signed) BENITO ELLERS,
*Treasurer of Cadiz.*

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*To his Excellency Don José Pizarro, First Secretary of State, &c. &c.*

MADRID, 29th JUNE, 1817.

SIR,

MY last note to you on the case of R. W. Meade, was on the 9th May, that representation induced your excellency to repeat his Majesty's orders to the Council of War, to the end that it might forthwith execute the consulta, which has been so long since demanded from it. It was to be expected that in a case of such urgency, where the liberty, fortune, health, and domestic happiness of an innocent man had been wantonly sacrificed, that the tribunal would have hastened to repair the errors which it had fallen into, more particularly as in the name of my government, I had demanded the liberty of this individual. It was not, however, till the 26th May, that the fiscal dictamen was given; that document, after a vain attempt to

justify the anterior proceedings complained of, concluded in these words:

"Pero en el dia quando existe el deposito como si fuese dinero segun expone el tesorero genl. y quando el consulado asegura que preceptuó á Meade verificase dicho deposito en Tesorerià de Rentas, *parece* que haviendo cumplido con ambos extremos, *no debe continuar por mas tiempo su arresto.*"

[*Translation.*—But at present, when the deposit exists, as if it were even effective money, as declared by the Treasurer General, and when the Consulado assures us, that it ordered Meade to verify the said deposit in the public treasury, it would *appear* that having complied with the orders of *both parties*, *his arrest should no longer continue.*]

The conclusion which the fiscal has thus arrived at, and the facts on which he has founded it, were as true 12 months ago as they are now. In fine, here is a formal confession of the fiscal himself, according to which there is no ground for continuing the imprisonment of Mr. Meade a single moment, but though this dictamen was given on 26*th May*, Mr. Meade has not been released: I therefore pray, that your Excellency would be pleased to order that the Council act in conformity to it without the least delay.

I renew to your Excellency assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) GEORGE W. ERVING.

We have the highest authority for stating that the real motives for the imprisonment of Mr. Meade, proceeds from the following cause:

It appears that his excellency Don Manuel Aurajo, late Minister of Hacienda (Don Martin Garay succeeded him) had passed an official letter or order to the Council of War, stating to it, "That it was his majesty's will, that notwithstanding the letters or royal orders, which it might receive through the Secretary of State, Pizarro, pressing for a decision of the affair of Mr. Meade, that the same should be delayed as long as possible, as at all events, let the decision be what it might, his majesty would be called on to pay the money in dispute, and owing to the scarcity of funds, his majesty could not pay the sum in question, and therefore commanded the business to be prolonged as much as possible.

By the last advices from Cadiz up to the 15th of November, Mr. Meade still remained in prison, without the smallest hope of any division on his case, or of his liberation.